



## NWS Blacksburg Top 5 Weather and Climate Events for 2016



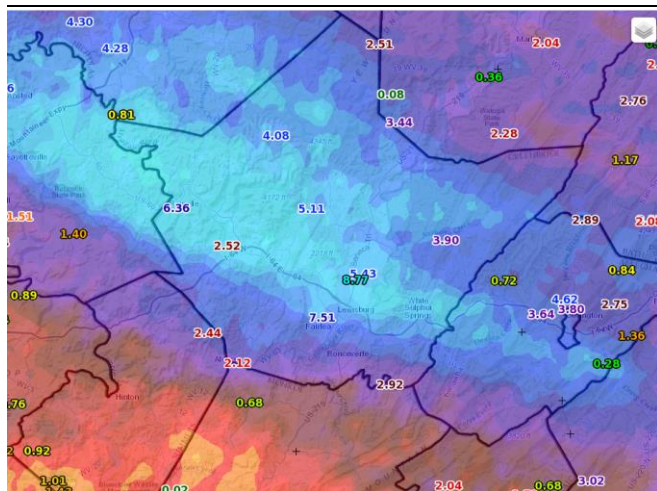
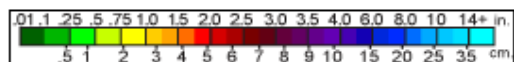
### 1. June 23rd-24th Catastrophic Flooding

One of the worst flash floods in the history of West Virginia occurred on June 23, 2016 as extreme rainfall occurred across portions of Greenbrier and several adjacent counties, including Alleghany County, VA. There were 16 fatalities in Greenbrier County and widespread catastrophic damage across much of the county. Radar and rain gauge measurements showed as much as 8 to 10 inches (perhaps higher locally) fell in a band across central Greenbrier County. The bulk of the rain fell in less than 12 hours between 600 AM and 600 PM. The top official rain gauge totals (24-hour amounts ending at 8 AM EDT, June 24th) included White Sulphur Springs 8.29", Lewisburg 8.00", McCross 6.54" and Williamsburg 5.37".

One personal weather station at Maxwelton measured 9.37" and there were several anecdotal reports of 10 or more inches. The 24-hour rainfall at White Sulphur Springs COOP, with fairly complete data back to around 1920 (and sporadic back to 1888) was more than double the all-time daily record (4.00" set in March, 1890). Lewisburg with data all the way back to around 1900 also demolished its all-time daily record of 4.06" set in July, 1954. A point event analysis by the Hydrometeorological Design Studies Center (HDSC) indicated that the rainfall was in the .001 Annual Exceedance Probability (1,000 year Annual Recurrence Interval, or ARI) for a 24-hour period.

#### 48-Hr Quantitative Precipitation Accumulation (inches)

Valid: Fri Jun 24, 2016 8:00 AM EST



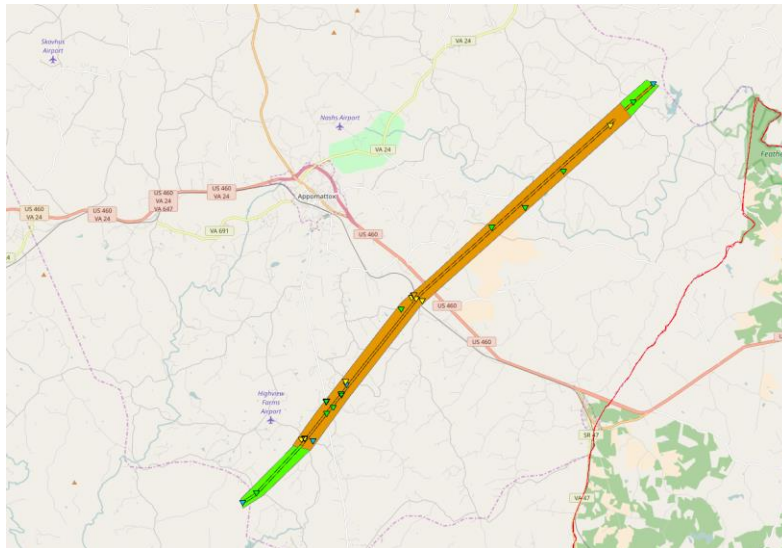
Rainfall Map from June 23-24<sup>th</sup>, 2016



Flooding in White Sulphur Springs

## 2. February 24th, 2016 EF-3 Tornado Campbell/Appomattox Counties

A tornado touched down just outside Appomattox county in Campbell county, then traveled 17.4 miles northeast across Appomattox county. At its peak, this tornado reached EF-3 (136-165 MPH) intensity, which was the first EF-3 tornado or stronger in the month of February in the NWS Blacksburg forecast area. For Appomattox County, this was only the third tornado on record since 1950, and the only tornado rated EF-3 or higher. The tornado passed just southeast of the town of Appomattox impacting the community of Evergreen before lifting near Holiday Lake State Park. The fatality and all the injuries occurred in Evergreen, when the tornado was at its greatest intensity. Thirty structures were completely destroyed and 160 others were damaged, mostly in the Evergreen area. There were also 7 injuries and 1 fatality from this tornado. Numerous trees were snapped and uprooted.



Track of February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 EF3 Tornado



Tornado near Evergreen, VA.

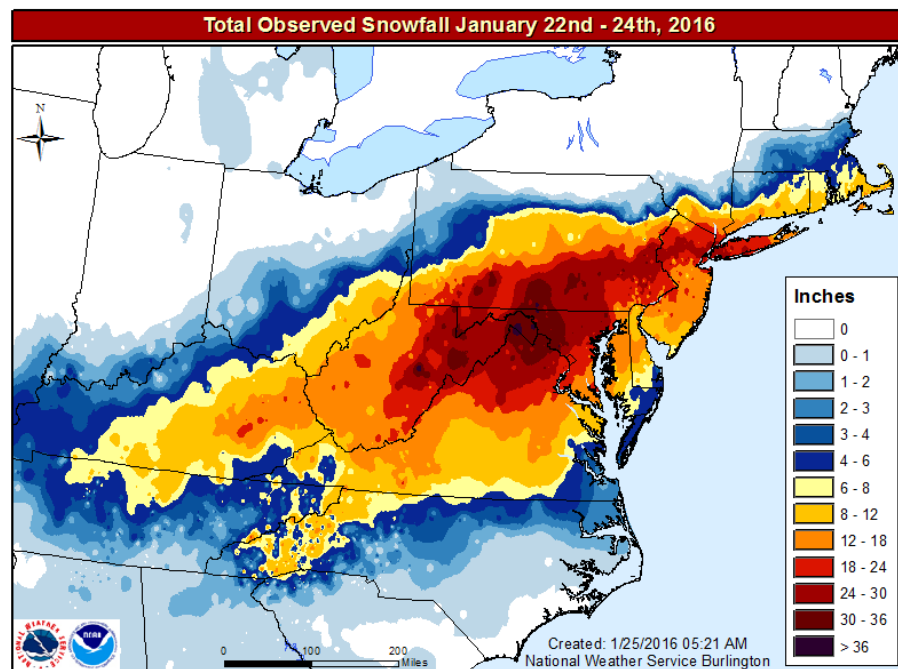
Photo from: Jason Smith

## 3. January 22nd-23rd, 2016 Winter Storm

A significant winter storm pushed from southwest to northeast, spreading periods of moderate to heavy snowfall across portions of southwest Virginia January 22nd through the 23rd. Snowfall continued through the day Friday and into Saturday before coming to an end after sunset. Accumulations from 6 to 12 inches of snow were commonplace, with portions of the higher elevations well over a foot of snowfall. Sleet was mixed in at times, especially south and west of the Blue Ridge Mountains.



Snow near Christiansburg, VA on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016



#### 4. Historic Late September Severe Weather

For the period of September 26th through September 30th, our office issued 44 severe thunderstorm and tornado warnings, with 68 unique events. This was the greatest number of warnings issued from NWS Blacksburg in the month of September since 2011 (66 warnings, 82 events). For the period 9/26 through 9/30, our office had never issued this many warnings or recorded this many events



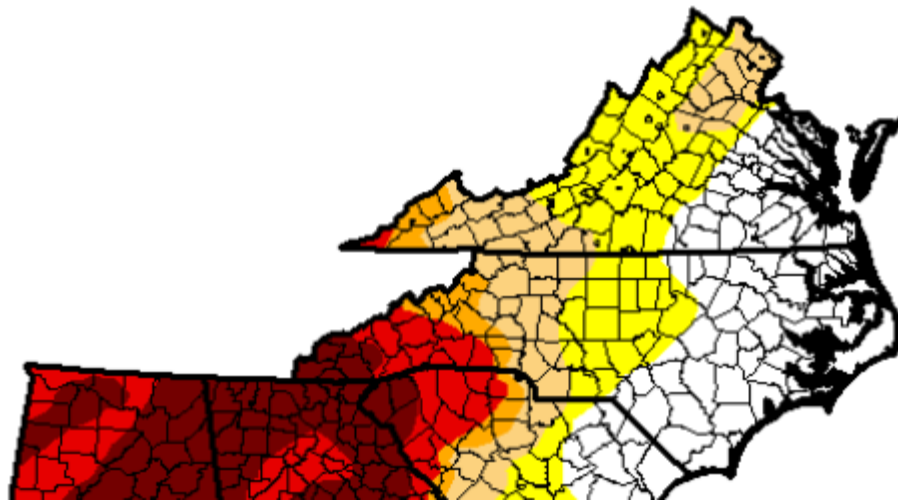
Numerous reports of damaging winds and large hail were received, with storms on the 28th of September producing hail as large as 3 inches in diameter in Halifax and Pittsylvania Counties.



5. **Extended Period of Dry Weather, Fall 2016**

For Roanoke, the 25 consecutive days of 0.01" of precipitation or less ending November 28th was the 6th longest period on record. The longest stretch was 40 days in 2001 that ended on November 23rd. The streak in Lynchburg was 30 days, which was the 5th longest on record (42 days ending 11/7/2000) For Danville, the 35 consecutive days of 0.01" of precipitation or less was the 2nd longest streak on record (40 days ending 11/23/2001). This prolonged period of dry weather resulted in D2 (severe drought) drought conditions in portions of northwest NC. This was the first time significant D2 drought conditions were noted in our forecast area since 2009.

## ***U.S. Drought Monitor*** **Southeast**



Intensity:



**Drought Conditions on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

The top 5 weather and climate events for 2016 were determined by a staff vote from employees at the National Weather Service in Blacksburg.



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